

REMARKS

Examiner has requested answers to various questions. Applicant herewith supplies answers to the questions to the best of the knowledge of the Applicant. Applicant is not exactly sure what Examine meant by "past" (i.e., past with respect to the present? or with respect to the invention?) or by similar (similar meaning incorporates the invention? or similar meaning it is within a similar field?) In answering the questions, Applicant has tried to give answers that are specific and give information that is relevant to prosecution of the present case.

Specifically:

[1] Prior to the present invention, to the best of Applicant's knowledge, Hewlett-Packard did not provide or offer fax and/or printing diagnostic tools to repair or service personnel that provided the functionality of the claimed invention.

[2] Prior to the present invention, to the best of Applicant's knowledge, hardware diagnostic tools that provided the functionality of the claimed invention have not been provided by Hewlett-Packard to fax/copier repair personnel.

[3] Prior to the present invention, to the best of Applicant's knowledge, Hewlett-Packard has not provided a software equivalent to the claimed invention to the public, or to fax/copier service personnel.

Examiner has requested copies of items of art referred to in the background section of the specification.

[1] Applicant is including herewith a Laserjet IIISi & 4Si Service Tool Users Guide, Revision 01.00.01 Mar. 1998. To the best of Applicant's knowledge this is the diagnostic tool referred to in paragraph 2 of the Specification.

[2] Applicant notes that USPN 6,400,462 provides further information pertaining to the Laserjet IIISi & 4Si Service Tool.

Hewlett-Packard Company currently distributes a Model C6484A Imaging and Printing Diagnostic Tool that utilizes the present invention. However, this product does not predate the present invention and is not prior art. Therefore, information about this product is not believed to be material to prosecution of the present invention. For completeness, however, Applicant is supplying a manual for this product.

Applicant is aware of two earlier diagnostic tools from Hewlett-Packard Company that tested inkjet printers. Internal to HP, these were called Galileo A and Galileo B. Neither of these tools supported fax transmission. Applicant, therefore, believes that these tools are not material to the present invention. Inventor Ken Buswell searched the Hewlett-Packard Company archives for documents pertaining to these products and queried David Hille for the same, but was unable to locate any.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes the present case is in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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